## THE NEW YORK PRESS.

ROPPORTAGE OPINIONS OF THE LUADING JOURNALS PPOS CORRENT TOPICS-COMPILED EVERY DAY FOR THE EVENING TELEGRAPH.

#### The Session.

From the Times. It is the old story. A session begun lazily winds up with the speed of a high-pressure ongine. Time wasted at the start is at the rnd made up by stopping the Capitol clock and expunging Sunday from the calendar. At first, all talk-at last, all work; the record of a three months' session showing a larger aggregate of results than eight days ago seemed possible. The work may not be of the best; the results may not be wholly satisfactory; but they more than suffice to vindicate the session from the imputation of barrenness.

The settlement of the reconstruction question would alone invest it with importance. The mode of settlement is not as we would have it. It conflicts with preconceived notions of republicanism, and awakens a painful, anxious interest in the future of the South. But, rough though it be-harsh and despotic as it undeniably is-it is preferable to prolonged uncertainty or delay. Even radical reconstruction, with military government as its initiatory process and universal negro suffrage as its inevitable object, is better than the indefinite exclusion of ten States, or the absence of specific declarations touching their reorganization. Congress has fixed its policy, and, with the President's help, must work it out. From this responsibility there can be no

escape.

The work must go forward from this day, on the basis constructed; and the wisdom or folly of the policy will be determined by its fruit. How it shall operate upon the South-whether as an irritant, necessitating the vigorous exercise of the military power, or as a stimulant. producing the healthy counteraction which shall render military authority unnecessarydepends upon the South itself. It may resist and suffer, or it may submit and regain peace and prosperity. Congress has acted intelligibly, and in a certain sense thoroughly according to the judgment of a majority; and though the Southern people may lose, they cannot possibly profit, by failing to comply with the terms prescribed.

The currency question remains essentially unchanged. Thanks to the firmness of the Senate, we have been spared the curse of increased inflation, for a time at least. Instead of an additional hundred millions of greenbacks, and the withdrawal of the Secretary's power to contract, as at one period seemed imminent, we shall have fifty millions of three per cent. certificates, which will not pass into circulation, and the limited authority vested in the Secretary continues. For this happy turn of affairs, the country is indebted more to accident than to any settled purpose of Congress. As between the principle of inflation, tending to national bankruptcy, and the principle of contraction, tending to specie payments and national solvency, no decision has been arrived at. The Senate restrains the House, and the House-for the moment outwitted—has the will and strength to hold in check the Senate.

The same fortuitous conflict has delivered us temporarily from the bondage of the prohibitionists. The general Tariff bill, framed on no other principle than that of plundering the community for the benefit of combined interests, fell to the ground, mainly for lack of time; and in its place Congress has enacted a bill for the special benefit of the woollen interests. They are the interests which, more than others, might best dispense with high duties; but the West having taken them under its care, they are licensed to wax fat at the expense of consumers, while other interests are left out in the cold. The dilemma will call forth exultation rather than commiseration. But we fear the deliverance is destined to be of brief duration. The monopolists are insatiate, and the Thirty-ninth Congress has affirmed no policy to stay their greed. The only hope of attaining the definite adjustment of the question lies in its systematic and intelligent revision; and hence we trust that the rumor of an intention to appoint a Commission, with a view to report next winter, will prove correct. The business classes crave certainty, moderation, and harmony; and these are qualities that will not be developed until Congress rises superior to the applicants for special favor by whom it is beset.

Let us not, however, be ungrateful. Congress has come short of its duty in relation to the tariff and the currency-if its action upon these questions has been spasmodic and accidental, affirming no principle and indicating no policy—it has by other measures afforded relief to embarrassed trade and struggling industry. The Bankruptcy bill is a boon not easily overestimated. difficulties which obstructed its course add to the significance of its enactment, and the trade of the country will be vastly better for it. To the thousands of meritorious but unfortunate traders who have been kept in unhappiness and business slavery by the rapacity of their creditors, it brings relief they have long craved in vain. And the Tax bill is good for what it promises, as well as for what it performs. It lightens the load on many forms of industry, and by its amendment of the income tax confers upon multitudes more immediate benefit than could be produced by any other measure. At the same time, the bill is encouraging and important as an affirmation of the policy of reducing the taxation of the country with all convenient speed. If the Fortieth Congress would serve the people effectually, it will hurry forward the task of cutting down taxation, as begun

under the new law. Probably more might have been accomplished in this direction had Congress strenuously resisted the devices of members for extracting millions from the public chest. "The equalization of bounties" may be a plausible pretext for granting five hundred or a thousand millions; but Congress ought not to ignore two facts-one that more grants mean more debt, and more debt means more taxation; the other, that "the equalization of bonnties" is a scheme for enriching agents and lobbyists and speculators, not the soldiers in whose name the measure was urged. Congress has been more amiable and generous than it can afford to be on these points. It has listened to pleas for bountles and compensations, when duty to an over-taxed country required the refusal to vote a single dollar. Schemes are already on the tapis that would absorb two thousand millions, and it is necessary to

resist them at the outset, and to resist all. Waging a quiet but uncompromising war with the President, Congress has not only enacted a measure crippling his power of removing and appointing in the civil branches of the Government, but has also tacked to the Army Appropriation bill a clause diminishing his authority as Commander-in-Chief over the General, and otherwise over the army. An opinion prevailed that the latter measure would encounter a pocket veto. The exigenclas of the service, however, rendered the loss

of the appropriation undesirable, and the President signed the bill under protest.

Among other measures that have become law in defiance of the President's veto is the District of Columbia Suffrage bill, establishing universal negro suffrage at Washington, and the bill admitting Nebraska as a State. Colorado continues excluded by the action of the President.

The subject of impeachment is still undis osed of. The report of the House Judiciary Committee is equivalent to a confession that the advocates of the proceeding have thus far failed to find solid ground. They do not, however, abanden their purpose, and we may consider it certain that what purports to be a solemn, but what is evidently a partisan, investigation will be renewed. The case, as it stands, is not favorable to the impeaching parties. Were the step essential, in the increst of the country and of justice, the facts warranting it would be notorious and above-The case cannot be very strong board. when the grounds of it must be sought, in darkness and secret, through the agency partisan detectives and unscrupulous adnturers.

### The New Congress.

From the Tribune. The Fortieth Congress organized on Monday immediately on the expiration of its prede. cessor. In the Senate twenty-seven States were represented, making the total number of Senators 54. Of these, 41 may be expected to, act on all, or most, of the important questions of reconstruction in conformity with the principles of the Republican party. Senator Van Winkle, of West Virginia, who in the First Session of the Thirty-ninth Congress frequently vacillated, voting sometimes with, cometimes against, the Republican party, helped last Saturday to carry both the Reconstruction and the Tenure of Office bills over the President's veto. If he adheres to the Republican party, it counts 42 members, a three-fourths majority. Senators Dixon, Norton, Patterson, and Doolittle remained to the end of the Thirty-ninth Congress the steadfast opponents of the Reconstruction policy of the Republican party, and must, therefore, be expected to vote the same way on the important measures which will soon occupy the attention of the Fortieth Congress. As the vote on the Reconstruction bill showed we may sooner expect one of the Democratic Senators to cast by accident a right vote than these apostate sons of the Republican party. Democracy has only seven representatives, to whom soon one will be added from Maryland. Reinforced by the four Republicans, the Democrats will generally control a dozen votes.

In view of the impeachment of the President, the office of President of the Senate is of special importance. It has been filled by the election of Benjamin F. Wade, of Ohio, a tried leader of the radical wing of the Republican party, and as such enjoying the confidence of the party to a higher degree than his predecessor, Lafayette S. Foster, who was regarded as a very conservative Republican. omparing the old and the new Congress, we se one Senator in Maryland, but we gain, besides the two Senators from the new State of Nebraska, one in California, one in Oregon, and one in Pennsylvania, being a clear gain of four. The harmony of the Republican party will be greater than in the preceding Congress Of the new Republican Senators, Morton, Cameron, Drake, Conkling, and Morrill will in particular bring a large share of executive and legislative experience and ability into their new offices, and take their rank among the

prominent men of their party.

The House has re-elected Schuyler Colfax Speaker and Edward McPherson Clerk. Both Speaker and Clerk have gained the esteem of ir friends as well as political opponents to an almost unparalleled degree. Both are uncompromising representatives of the Republican party. As six States have not yet held their elections, the total number of States represented at present is only 21, and the total number of representatives is 163 (not including the vacancy which has been caused by the election of Roscoe Conkling as the Senator from New York). The number of Republicans is 128, and as all of them have been elected as avowed opponents of the policy of the President, we presume they will vote on most or all important questions as a unit. The Democrats. number 34, including Noell (Mo.) and Phelps (Md.), who were elected on the Democratic ticket. By allowing them also Thomas E. Stewart, of this city, their number increases to 35, or less than one-fourth of the House. The States which still have to elect members of Congress are likely to send delegations of

the following complexion:-

-or, in all, 17 Republicans and 12 Democrats, increasing the total number of Republicans to 145, and that of the Democrats to 47, still leaving to the Republicans a two-thirds majority. Comparing the XXXIXth with the XLth Congress, our gains and lesses are as follows:-

New York 1 1 Obio 0 Pennsylvania 2 Nebruska.

-showing a gain of five, against a loss of three, or a net gain of two.

Thad. Stevens will take the same rank in the new Congress that he did in the old, and with him all the prominent members of the XXXIXth Congress have been re-elected. Intellectually, the Republican party will gain in strength by the addition of such new members as General's Butler and Logan, and Mr. Covode. The election, on the other hand, of men like Fernando Wood and John Morrissey is likely to add to the disorganization of the Democratic party. There is none among either the old or new members of that party who will generally

be accepted as a leader. The prospects of the XLth Congress are in every respect brighter than those of the XXXIXth; and if we take into consideration that the passage of the Reconstruction bill must secure a large addition to the Republican party from the as yet unreconstructed States. while few or no additions will be made from them to the Democratic party, we look forward to a bright chapter in the history of American Congresses, and, in particular, to the successful execution of a sound policy of Reconstruction.

#### The Impeachment Question. From the Herald.

What is the prospect on the impeachment question? Mr. Wilson, of the Judiciary Committee of the House of the retiring Congress, charged with the examination of certain allegations of "high crimes and misdemeanors" against the President of the United States, reported to the House, on Saturday night last, that since January 7 they had been actively prosecuting the task assigned them; that they had examined a large number of witnesses; had collected many documents, etc., but that they had been unable to

fully investigated all the charges against the accused, they deem it inexpedient to submit any conclusion beyond the statement that sufficient testimony had been given "to ustify and demand a further prosecution of the investigation." And so the testimony taken was delivered into the hands of the Clerk of the House, subject to a requisition from the new Congress, for the use of such committee thereof "as may be charged with the duty of bringing this investigation to an end, so that the labor expended upon it may not have been in vain."

Thus, then, stands the case. The Committee of the retiring Congress report that sufficient testimony has been obtained "to justify and demand a further prosecution of the investigation;" and so among the first proceed-ings of this new Congress will probably be the adoption of a resolution instructing its Judiciary Committee to resume the investigation and push it to a conclusion. When the retiring Committee say that this course is demanded by the evidence obtained, we cannot avoid the inference that President Johnson is in great danger. Mr. Rogers, of New Jersey, on the other hand, of the Committee, in a minority report, says that he has "carefully examined all the testimony in the case," and that in his opinion it "is without a particle of evidence upon which impeachment could be founded;" but it must be remembered that Mr. Rogers is a believer in all the President's doings, in opposition to and in defiance of Congress, and that his opinion is not likely to have much weight beyond the lines of the President's supporters.

On Saturday the Hon. Ben. Butler delivered at Albany a lecture in which he earnestly urged impeachment as the only remedy for Mr. Johnson. On Monday, while the Democrats in the new Congress were rejoicing over their new accessions of Fernando Wood, James Brooks, and John Morrissey, the Hon. Ben. Butler was holding a quiet little confidential chat with "Old Thad." Stevens. The special topic of this consultation will perhaps appear (after the appointment of the regular committees of the House by the Speaker) in a new impeachment resolution from Mr. Butler, embracing the resumption of the late investigations. Meantime, however, we expect a general message from the President to the two Houses on the state of the country, and in this message, if he will, he may create such a diversion in his favor as to secure a suspension of all these impeachment proceedings. He has, we believe, only to recognize the complete overthrow of his Southern policy, the new obligations which are upon him in seeing the policy and the laws of Congress "faithfully exe-cuted," and to declare his purpose in good faith to execute these laws, in order to have the sword of Damocles, which is still hanging over his head, taken down,

From the tone of his veto message on the Reconstruction bill, we are not very sanguine that he will adopt this course. In that message he garnishes his constitutional objections with charges of patisan motives and designs operating with Congress-charges more befitting a stump speech than a state paper. Nor does he disclose in the temper of this message any purpose or inclination to recognize his obligations under this bill if passed over his head. But after his doings in the South upon the pending Constitutional amendment, some explicit assurances in regard to this new law will be necessary for his salvation. Against this law he is as powerless as South Carolina or Wade Hampton. He can no longer make a change in his Cabinet or remove an office-holder without the consent of the Senate. Congress, too, in no mood for further trifling, is on the ground awaiting his decision upon this Reconstruction bill.

What will Mr. Johnson do? The Hon. Benleaders of the Democratic party. Fairly beaten at every point, and disarmed, there remains to Mr. Johnson the only alternative of a graceful surrender to Congress or an indignant resignation of his office, if he would escape the last resort of impeachment. A protest like that of Mr. Brooks against this Congress as a rump Congress will be only the folly of that melancholy Chicago pilgrimage over again. The spirit of his late veto, so well calculated to aggravate rather than soften the hostile temper of the South against Congress, will no longer answer. First of all, the case of Mr. Johnson requires his submission gracefully to the sovereign law-making power; and secondly, that faithful execution of the law which will most readily bring back the excluded Rebel States to a graceful submission. Let him meet these requirements in his opening message to this new Congress, and let him next issue a proclamation to the South urging a generous submission to the law, and resumption of the impeachment investigations will be indefinitely postponed. The whole case now hangs upon the President's expected message to Congress upon the state of the country.

## Southern Interests.

From the World. It should afford some consolation to our oppressed fellow-citizens, that the malignity of politicians cannot intercept the bounty of Providence. If the radicals extend their bigoted sway over the South, they have no power to extend over that favored region their bleak climate and niggardly soil. The sunny latitudes of the South exempt its people from. much of the toil imposed upon the North by its long, cold winters. Our hay crop, for example, takes up a larger area of land, and in some States amounts to a greater sum total of value, than any other crop. But this is all consumed to subsist through the winter the domestic animals which, in many parts of the South, require comparatively

ittle feeding. The expense of fuel for warming our dwellngs, and the more costly mode of building required for defense against the cold, are heavy burdens which our climate imposes upon us, and from which theirs exempts them. They have another great advantage over us in the nature of their productions. Their cotton crop is light in proportion to its value, in universal demand, and not dependent for a market on the fluctuating harvests of foreign countries. The lightness of this commodity, and the steady demand for it abroad, give Southern agriculture a great advantage over that of the West, rich as the West is in its soil and productions. Every other section of the Union, as compared with the South, is like a handicapped horse in a race. If the South is now a little behind, industry and a few good seasons will bring her abreast, and, if the negro experiment works well, put her ahead. Even the abolition of slavery is by no means the drawback it might at first sight seem. If we simply reckon the estimated money value of the slaves emancipated, and regard it as so much property destroyed, the amount indeed seems enormous. But this mode of viewing it is very fallacious. Plantation hands were selling, just previous to the war, for one thousand dollars. The interest on this sum is seventy dollars, which, with the

bring their examination to a close. Not having | an annual expense that may be regarded in the light of wages. When we consider that this negro's children had to be supported during childhood, and himself in sickness and old age, and assign an average share of this expense to the annual account, we shall make up a pretty formidable rate of annual wages under the old system. Now the loss by emancipation is simply the difference between this sum and the wages actually paid at present. Instead of wiping out four billions of property "at one fell swoop" (which, if we look only at the transferable value, is perhaps true), the only real loss to the planter who works his estate, is merely the annual difference between what he now pays as wages, and the average annual cost of his slaves previous to emancipation. This loss is more than counterbalanced for the present (and probably will be for many years to come by the enhanced price of cotton, the planter getting as much for one bale as he used to receive for two or three. It is probable that cotton will never sink back to the old rates The increase in wages will make a permanent addition to the price, and in that case, emancipation will entail on the planters (as a collective community) no loss whatever, but only on the consumers of cotton. Passing to more transient considerations, we

still discover reasons why the South ought not to be despondent under political oppression The two sad, heavy years which have passed since the close of the war are not types of the years that are to follow. The war was not ended till near the close of the spring months when it was too late to begin agricultural operations for the season with reference to the change, and everything was in such a state of unhingement and prostration that little could have been done that year anyway. Last year was also unfortunate, although the negroes had learned that freedom was not exactly synonymous with idleness, and had become partially cured of their freaks of vagrancy Drowning rains early in the season, and withering drought auterward, the hopes of the husbandman in large porwithering drought afterwards, destroyed of the cotton seed, which had been kept for years, did not germinate; worn-out implements, which the planters had no means to replace, were an impediment to cultivation: and the immense consumption of cattle and horses by the war left a deficiency in draught animals which had not been supplied. There is good reason to hope that all these evils will be escaped this year. Such drowning in spring and droughts in summer are unusual, and no likely to occur again until after a long interval. The two years which have elapsed since the war have matured every two-year-old colt into a horse, every growing steer and heifer into an ox or cow, so that the lack of animals will be measurably supplied. There is plenty of fresh cotton seed of last year's growth, and the proceeds of last year's crop will enable the planters to procure needed tools and implements. The negroes have had an additional year of training in their new condition, and, it is to be hoped, have made some progress towards habits of self-imposed industry. think, therefore, that the South will thrive this year, as a business community, as they have not before since the beginning of the war, and that every future year will bring additional prosperity.

If the Northern Republicans were actuated even by a motive so creditable as enlightened selfishness, they would try to advance the South, instead of ignobly obstructing it. The prosperity of that section will, in many ways, increase our own. In proportion to its growing wealth, it will more and more divide with us the burden of the public debt. The exportation of its great staple, when revived to its old dimensions, will be the most convenient means of redressing our foreign exchanges. jamin F. Wade, President of the Senate, is as and will enable us to resume specie payments anxious to hear, no doubt, as the anxious without danger of a drain of gold to Europe. It will create in the South the same steady market for Western agriculture which the cotton planters enjoy in Europe for their staple, and thus cut up by the roots one o the favorite arguments for a protective tariff.

If there was ever a time when the South needed to have consoling words spoken to her, it is now, and the only solid ground of encouragement which we can discover, is the bounty which Heaven will bestow regardless of spiteful politicians.

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